

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SCCT-02 IO-14 OS-03

CU-05 AID-20 M-02 A-01 OPR-02 SY-04 SCS-03 SCA-01

DRC-01 NEA-14 (ISO) W

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O 221700Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2003

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T THESSALONIKI 0396

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GR, TU

SUBJECT: THESSALONIKI ROUND-UP, JULY 22

REF: THESSALONIKI'S 389.

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL OBSERVATIONS IN
THESSALONIKI JULY 22.

1. GENERAL ATMOSPHERE: CITY REMAINED CALM THROUGHOUT
WORK-DAY, WITH CONDITIONS RETURNING TOWARD NORMAL,
ALTHOUGH MANY SHOPS CLOSED, EITHER BECAUSE OWNERS CONSCRIPTED
OR FEAR OF HOARDER BUYING. NEWS OF CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT,
WHICH BEGAN CIRCULATING ABOUT 0930 LOCAL, GREETED GENERALLY
WITH AIR MORE OF RELIEF THAN REJOICING. C" CORPS HQ VERY
QUIET, AND NORMAL DAILY FLOW OF VEHICLES AND PERSONNEL
NOTED AT 87TH MIL COMMAND HQ.

2. TROOPS AND MOVEMENTS: ABOUT SIX HUNDRED CONSCRIPTS,
PROBABLY NEWLY-FORMED INFANTRY BATTALION, IN MIXTURE
WORLD WAR I AND II HELMETS, FATIGUE CAPS AND BERETS, SOME

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SHOUTING "ENOSIS", TROOPED DOWN WATERFRONT BOULEVARD TO

COMMERCIAL PORT AREA AT 0900Z, PRESUMABLY FOR EMBARKATION. PASSENGER-CAR FERRY "IONION" EMBARKED UNDETERMINED NUMBER TROOPS, 105'S, AND MIX OF MILITARY AND COMMANDEERED CIVILIAN TRUCKS AT 1200Z. AFTER TWO HOUR WAIT LEFT FOR UNKNOWN DESTINATION. FOUR SMALLER FERRIES AND FIVE MEDIUM COASTAL CRAFT ANCHORED INSIDE BREAKWATER, JUST OFFSHORE, EVIDENTLY STANDING BY.

3. AIR: IN ADDITION F-80'S REPORTED PREVIOUS TELS, 2 F-5'S OBSERVED TAKING OFF FROM MIKRA AIRFIELD AT 1100Z TODAY. AIRFIELD REMAINS CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC, BUT TWO OLYMPIC BOEINGS (707'S OR 720'S) NOTED PARKED ON FIELD, PROBABLY FOR CONTINGENCY LIFT.

4. U.S. BUSINESS AND COMMERCE: (A) ALL TANK TRUCKS OF ESSO PAPPAS COMMANDEERED BY ARMY THIS MORNING, ACCORDING ESSO PLANT MANAGER. SAME REPORTED TRUE OF OTHER PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTORS. (CONVOY OF FIFTEEN COMMANDEERED COMMERCIAL TRUCKS, DRIVEN BY ARMY PERSONNEL, NOTED PASSING THROUGH CENTER CITY THIS AFTERNOON.) ESSO MANAGER REPORTS STORAGE FACILITIES FILLING TO MAXIMUM, BUT PRODUCTION CONTINUING AT NORMAL RATE, AT LEAST FOR PRESENT. (B) ETHYL-HELLAS BUSINESS DIRECTOR REPORTS HALF OF PLANT'S 202 OPERATIONS PERSONNEL CONSCRIPTED, AND PRODUCTION CONTINUING AT ABOUT 50 PERCENT NORMAL RATE. ALL EXPORTS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED AND STORAGE FACILITIES "MOSTLY FULL". REPORTS PLANT NOW ON 12-HOUR SHIFTS AND WORKER MORALE HIGH. ALSO COMMENTED ON COOPERATION FROM GREEK AUTHORITIES IN EXPEDITING UNLOADING OF SODIUM AND METHYL ALUM. SEQUICHLORIDE (MASC) FROM CONTAINER VESSEL "REPULSE BAY" TODAY. (C) COCA-COLA PLANT MANAGER CLOSED PLANT OPERATIONS AND DISTRIBUTIONS THIS AFTERNOON IN VIEW WIDELY-CURRENT RUMORS (UNCONFIRMED) OF POSSIBLE DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES IN AREA. (D) AMERICAN BANKS OPEN FOR LIMITED EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS.

5. PRESS: ACTING UPON DECISION OF MINISTER TO PRESIDENCY RALLIS THAT "PROVINCIAL" PAPERS SHOULD PUBLISH TODAY, (NO PAPERS NORMALLY APPEAR ON MONDAY) BOTH "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" AND "MAKEDONIA" PUT OUT SINGLE-SHEET, FOUR-PAGE

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EDITIONS DEVOTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO CYPRUS FIGHTING, MOBILIZATION, SISCO MISSION, STATEMENTS OF WORLD LEADERS, ETC. FRONT PAGES BORE MAP OF CYPRUS, PHOTOS OF DEPARTING SOLDIERS ON TRAINS AND TRUCKS, AND PICTURE OF RALLIS. LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM UNIONS, COUNCILS, EX-POLITICAL FIGURES, OFFICIALS AND DEPUTIES, PUBLISHED ON INSIDE FOLDS.

6. U.S. SCHOOLS: ENCAMPMENT OF SEVERAL HUNDRED NEWLY-CONSCRIPTED SOLDIERS ON ANATOLIA COLLEGE CAMPUS CONTINUES. DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL ALSO REPORTS ABOUT SEVEN HUNDRED CIVIL DEFENSE (UNDER GENDARMERIE CONTROL) PERSONNEL NOW BIVOUACKED ON FARM SCHOOL GROUNDS. IN BOTH CASES, TROOPS REPORTED ORDERLY AND POLITE , ("MARVELOUSLY CONTROLLED" ACCORDING TO ANATOLIA DIRECTOR) AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO INCIDENTS. BOTH SCHOOLS OFFERED FOOD AND DRINK TO THEIR "GUESTS". THUS FAR, NO EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE BY GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICIALS TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON PLAN TO TAKE OVER ANATOLIA BUILDINGS FOR HOSPITAL, AND HOPEFULLY THIS WILL NOT BE NECESSARY.
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